

National Security Education Center

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Center for Space and Earth Science (CSES)



Steven W. Clarke

Director of the Heliophysics Division
Science Mission Directorate, NASA Headquarters

Heliophysics Research: The NASA Headquarters Perspective

Thursday, August 18, 2016

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Physics Auditorium
TA-03, Bldg 215

Rescheduled from July

Abstract. NASA formulates and implements a national research program for understanding the Sun and its interactions with the Earth and the solar system and how these phenomena impact life and society. This research provides theory, data, and modeling development services to national and international space weather efforts utilizing a coordinated and complementary fleet of spacecraft, called the Heliophysics System Observatory (HSO), to understand the Sun and its interactions with Earth and the solar system, including space weather. This presentation will focus on the NASA Headquarters perspective of formulating and implementing this critically important research program and the contributions the agency continues to provide to the science of space weather, leveraging inter-agency and international collaborations for the benefit of society.

Biography. Steven W. Clarke was named Director of the Heliophysics Division in the Science Mission Directorate at NASA Headquarters starting June 1, 2015. As the Director, he is responsible for leading the formulation and implementation of a national research program, through scientific flight investigations and research grants, to understand the Sun, its interactions with the Earth and the solar system, and how the observed phenomena impact life and society.

Previously, he was the Director of the Joint Agency Satellite Division, responsible for managing reimbursable spacecraft and instrument development activities performed by NASA for partner agencies, including the Deep Space Climate Observatory, Joint Polar Satellite System and the Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite (GOES)-R series.

Mr. Clarke supported the Deputy Associate Administrator of the Exploration Systems Development Division at NASA Headquarters where he was responsible for developing the exploration architecture for human exploration beyond Earth orbit.

He joined the Constellation Ground Operations Project Office at the Kennedy Space Center, Florida, when it was established in 2005, assigned as the Chief of the Launch Vehicle Division. Mr. Clarke was responsible for developing launch vehicle ground processing interface requirements and instilling operability into the launch vehicle design. In 2009, he was selected as the Deputy Director of the Ground Operations Project Office.

After several years as a systems and project engineer in the aerospace industry, Mr. Clarke joined NASA in 2000 as an integration engineer responsible for NASA's scientific robotic missions. In 2003, he was selected as the Mechanical Branch Chief in the Launch Services Program, Kennedy Space Center, Florida.

Mr. Clarke has received numerous awards during his career including NASA's Exceptional Achievement Medal for outstanding leadership. He has a B.S. degree in engineering and a M.S. degree in engineering management from the University of Central Florida.

For more information contact the technical host, Reiner Friedel, NSEC, 665-1936, rfriedel@lanl.gov